



Bill Summary

State Board of Nursing – Sunset Extension, Licensure Exceptions, and Board Operations and Membership

[Senate Bill 960](#)/[House Bill 611](#)

BILL SUMMARY

This bill extends the termination date for the Maryland Board of Nursing to July 1, 2025, transfers authority for infrastructure operations to the Secretary of Health for two years, requires the Board to hire a consultant to conduct an independent evaluation and develop an action plan, and allows nurse graduates two attempts to pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) while retaining nurse graduate status. The bill also ends current Board members' terms on a staggered basis and allows them to apply for reappointment.

WHAT'S NEXT

- By Sept. 1, 2023, the external consultant must report findings and the action plan to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health & Government Operations Committee.
- By Dec. 1, 2023 the Board must report to the Governor on average processing times for fiscal year 2023 for initial licenses, certifications, and renewals; authorization to test; and approval of proposed nursing curriculum revisions, new nursing education programs, new faculty, and new clinical sites.
- MHA will continue to engage the Secretary and Board of Nursing during this transition and share updates with the field.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Inform nursing leadership, human resources, and the nurse residency coordinator of the forthcoming changes and new flexibility for nurse graduates.

FURTHER QUESTIONS

For more information contact [Jane Krienke](#).

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The bill transfers authority over the Board of Nursing's infrastructure operations to the Secretary of Health until July 1, 2025. Infrastructure operations do not include policy or regulatory decisions of the Board or licensing, investigation, or disciplinary activities.
- The Secretary can employ staff and may designate a staff member, who must be a registered nurse, to serve as executive director. The Secretary can set competitive compensation.
- The Board must hire an external consultant to conduct an independent evaluation and develop an action plan to implement the recommendations identified in the [Joint Chairmen's Report](#). The action plan must be developed in partnership with the Department of Budget & Management, Department of Health, and the Department of Information Technology.
- The terms of current Board members will end in two phases on May 1, 2023 and Nov. 1, 2023. Members are eligible to reapply.
- The Board must include additional aggregate data, identified in consultation with stakeholders, in its annual report to facilitate workforce and health planning.
- Nurse graduates are allowed two attempts to pass the NCLEX within 120 days of applying for licensure to the Board before losing nurse graduate status.